

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Wei-Chen Nicholas Chen on 06/06/2008:

Claim 23 is cancelled.

### **STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

This communication is an Examiner's reasons for allowance in response to application filed on 09/08/2003, assigned serial 10/656,173 and titled "Driving Assist System for Vehicle"

The following is the Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The applicant's amendment and arguments filed on 02/26/2008 have been fully considered. After carefully reconsidering the application and the applied prior art, the examiner has realized the application is patentably distinct from the prior art. The prior art are not deemed strong to make the application unpatentable.

The most relevant cited prior art is the reference of Ichikawa et al. (US 20020045981A1) and Kato et al. (US 6059068A). However, none of the cited references, either alone or in combination, fairly suggests a driving assist

system/method including a reaction force adjusting device configured to adjust reaction force characteristic of a vehicle operating device to convey information related to the calculated risk potential to a driver of the vehicle, based upon the risk potential calculated by the risk potential calculation device, wherein the vehicle operating device is a steering device or an accelerator pedal. None of the cited reference teaches that the external influence detection device configured to detect an external influence which will affect an operation of the steering device or the accelerator pedal by the driver, and a reaction force correction device configured to correct the reaction force characteristics of the steering device or the accelerator pedal adjusted by the reaction force adjustment device, based upon detection results obtained by the external influence detection device. Thus, claims 2-12, 14, 15, 19, 21, 24, and 25 are now patentable over the cited prior art.

For that reason, the application is now set in a condition of allowance.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan C To whose telephone number is (571) 272-6985. The examiner can normally be reached on from 8:00AM to 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Keith can be reached on 571-272-6878.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Tuan C To/

Acting Examiner of Art Unit 3663/3600

June 7, 2008